

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

This Supplemental Amendment is in further response to the Office Action, dated January 12, 2005, and it incorporates the suggestions made by the examiner in the August 26, 2005, interview as summarized in the Interview Summary and as discussed above.

Specifically, each of the amended independent claims 1, 9, and 11, and each of the new independent claims 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 32, and 33 now recites the modular nature of the invention, including one fluid flow connection of the modular differential and absolute pressure transducer to the load lock chamber so that both of the absolute and differential pressure sensors are in fluid flow relation to the load lock chamber via the one connector. Also, the claims have been amended to remove recitations relating to desirable or undesirable results or parameters to avoid indefiniteness issues, as suggested by the examiner. Therefore, all of the independent claims 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 32, and 33 are believed to be allowable. As discussed previously, no modular differential and absolute pressure transducer with the capabilities and features recited in the claims exists in the prior art and there is no suggestion or incentive in the prior art to use one in the manner claimed to control load locks, so the claims are believed to be allowable under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103.

The different dependent claims recite additional features that are also believed to be allowable under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 103 with the various limitations in the respective independent claims from which they depend.

In this regard, please note that support for the pirani, regular pirani, convection pirani, and thermocouple absolute pressure sensors used in this invention and recited in claims 8, 9, 11, 18, 26-29, and 38-41 is, for example, in the specification, paragraph 0034.

Also, support for the capacitance manometer and piezo sensors for the differential pressure sensors recited in claims 30, 31, 42, and 43, can be found, for example, in the specification, paragraph 0035.

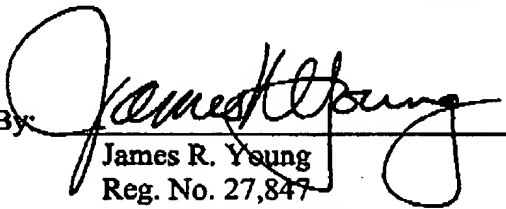
The modular nature is described for example, in paragraph 0027 of the specification and is shown in Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings.

Setting differential pressure set points at desired values to open the exterior door, including, for example, zero or some other value is described in, for example, in paragraph 0038 of the specification, and setting absolute pressure set points is described in, for example, paragraphs 0040 and 0041.

Applicant believes that all of the claims 8-45 are patentable as now presented and requests that the examiner issue an early allowance. If any issues remain to be resolved, the examiner is requested to call applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,
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Dated: September 13, 2005

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